## IV SECURITY

The earliest and most common security device in the Vieux Carre was solid wood shutters. The shutters were left open much of the time but were closed for protection against inclement weather and for security. Later louvered shutters provided this security while also allowing for ventilation.

## A. Acceptable Devices

In seeking solutions for privacy and protection, the history, style and design of the individual buildings must be taken into consideration.

- 1. Wood buildings and one-story cottages historically had wooden shutters and wooden gates. Iron gates and ornate grillework are not permitted on the exterior of these buildings.
- 2. The detailing of store doors should accommodate protective metal bars or wood panels (night blinds) between the face of the door and the location of the muntins. Refer to the "store doors" portion in the Openings section.
- 3. Although decorative iron window grilles or guards evidently were not as popular in New Orleans as in Europe, there is precedent for their use locally. The Wickersham Catalog, published in New York in 1857, includes drawings of patterns for window grilles. Iron window grilles may be acceptable on the ground floor openings of commercial buildings where the use of shutters or night blinds is not appropriate, provided that they conform to the following:
  - a. Where sufficient space exists between the window sash and the outer face of the window frame, the grille should be set within the window frame. Where sufficient space does not exist, the grille can be mounted either flush with the outer face of the frame or extending out no more than one (1) inch in front of the outer face of the opening;
  - b. Iron window grilles must be attached to the window frame so as to allow their removal during business hours. Attachment of the grilles to the frames should be accomplished as simply as possible to minimize the visual impact of the attachment on the window frame and facade; and
  - c. Grilles should be composed of woven metal "wire" or strands in either a simple diamond pattern or other appropriate 19th century design.

- 4. On French doors which do not have the thickness or the recessed area to accommodate bars and on which shutters would not be appropriate, it is recommended that:
  - a. Sash be glazed with heavy tempered glass,
  - b. Protective bars be located on the inside face of the door/window sash, and
  - c. The least conspicuous electrical warning devices be used.
- 5. On doorways which have an exterior vestibule at least 18 inches in depth, simple metal bars/gates may be permitted at the front of the vestibule.
- 6. Metal bars are not permitted on the exterior face of windows. When they are to be used, they should be installed on the interior side of the window, which provides a greater degree of security and safety than exterior installations.